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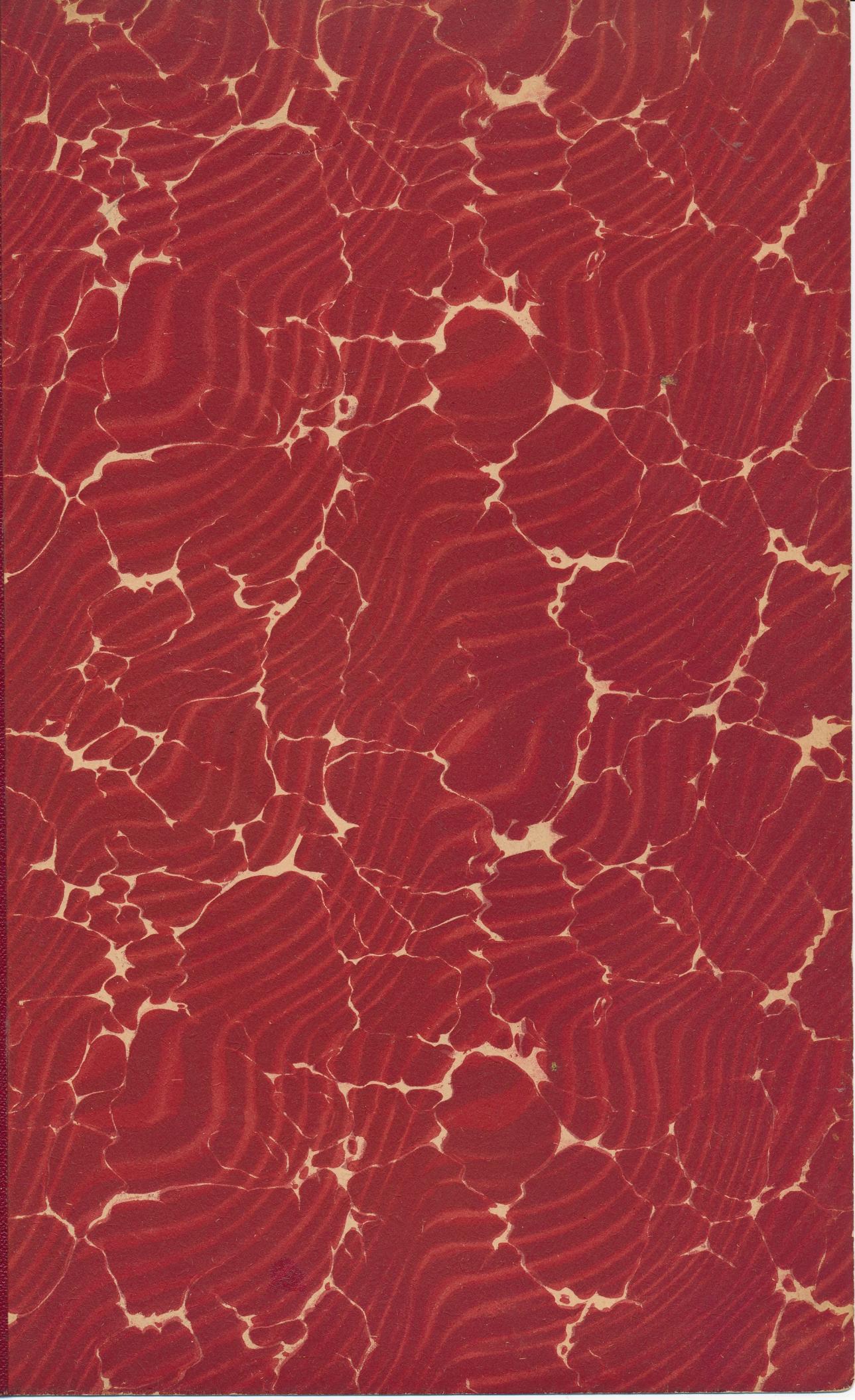


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HISTORICAL  
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Dr. J. W. Bosman



J W B O S M A N M D

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J. W. Bosman was born near Holland, Michigan, April 15, 1861. He attended the public school in Holland, also Hope College.

He graduated from the University of Michigan School of Medicine in 1885, and shortly afterward located in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he was the first city physician to hold that office on a salary and treated the needy free of charge.

When he came to Kalamazoo he opened an office on East Main street and furnished it with second hand furniture for which he went into debt. He also went into debt for his equipment. It was a hard struggle for the young doctor. He received from fifty to seventy-five cents for office calls and knew what it was to wait for patients in order to eat.

When the Bryant Paper Company was organized in 1895, Dr. Bosman was employed as the company physician and surgeon and called at the plant every morning for thirty-eight years to counsel and help the employees.



Dr. Bosman was the old type of family physician, on the go day and night, making long trips into the country with horse and buggy. His early struggles made him ready to assist young physicians when they were having a hard time to get started.

In 1894 the Elks Lodge was in a bad way. The membership had dwindled and there was talk of returning the charter. On November 24th of that year Dr. Bosman became a member. The following year he became Exalted Ruler, which office he held seven years, from 1897 to 1900 and the years 1906, 1907, and 1913. Soon after Dr. Bosman became a member he interested Frank H. Milham, President of the Bryant Paper Company, in the organization and the Lodge was built up.

Dr. Bosman was at one time a 32nd degree Mason and a Knights Templar. He was elected a life member of the Academy of Medicine and was an Honorary Member of that body. He was a faithful member of St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church and was deeply interested in religious matters. He was widely known for his generosity and always helped every good cause. He was one of Kalamazoo's most beloved citizens.

The Reverend A. Gordon Fowkes said of him,

"Dr. Bosman was not only a family physician, but a true friend to his patients, endeavoring always to ease the struggles of others. He



never refused to respond to the call for service or aid, and was generous to the needy far beyond his means. He was gifted with a capacity for human friendship of uncommon intensity. He was a Churchman of regular, corporate, and private devotions; interested in all phases of parochial life and both generous and loyal in his relationships with St. Luke's parish."

Mr. John B. Jackson, M. D., wrote the following:

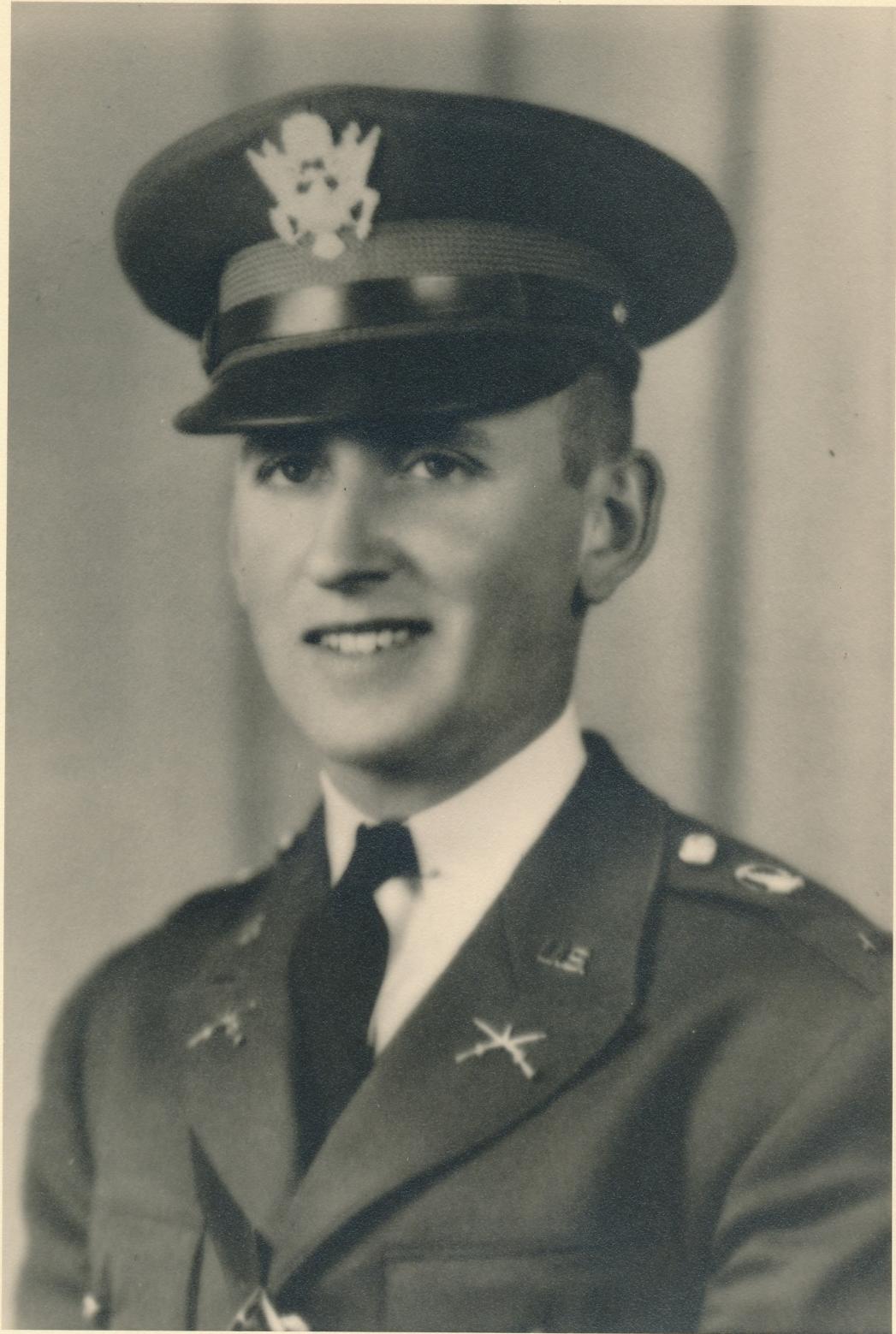
"At his death, Dr. Bosman had practiced medicine in Kalamazoo longer than any other physician living at the time. He was universally loved and respected by his many friends in the profession. His long experience and practice made him a valuable consultant for cases of serious illness. He was especially helpful to the younger men not yet established in practice. To them he was ever ready to give help needed in the care of their patients. His patients whom he served for many years were most loyal and devoted to him, both as a physician and a friend. He was one who through years of patient toil and effort won the appreciation and love of both doctors and patients. For medical men, in the years to come, his professional life is one that can well serve as a model of the family physician."

Dr. Bosman's death occurred January 16, 1934.

Written March 18, 1937.







DOUGLAS MAINORD BOUDEMAN

1917 - 1943

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Douglas Mainord Boudeman was born in Seattle, Washington, December 11, 1917, son of Glen and Mildred Sheldon Currier. His mother's second marriage was to Dallas Boudeman, Jr., and later Douglas legally took the name of Boudeman. Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Boudeman became the parents of a daughter Nancy. After the death of Dallas Boudeman, his widow became the wife of Charles H. Schutz, who was at one time receiver of the Bank of Kalamazoo. She died August 22, 1941.

Douglas Boudeman attended a rural school near Bloomingdale, Michigan, and later the Vine Street School in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He spent some time at Howe Military Academy, Howe, Indiana, and in 1936 was graduated from Western Military Academy, Alton, Illinois. It was this training that brought him his commission as Lieutenant in 1938. While at school he was very active in athletics, foot ball, basket ball, swimming and track.

Upon his return to Kalamazoo, Michigan, Douglas enrolled in Kalamazoo College and also attended



Parson's Business College. After leaving school Douglas Boudeman was associated for a time with the receivership of the Bank of Kalamazoo.

February 17, 1940, being a reserve officer, he was called into the armed forces at Fort Warren, Wyoming, which at the time were in maneuvers in North Carolina, where Camp Jackson is located.

December 31, 1938, Lieutenant Douglas Boudeman was married to Marjorie Dunwell, who died March 23, 1939. August 27, 1940, he was married to Ruth Barrett, daughter of Charles Crosby Barrett and Bernice Hoadley Barrett. Ruth had one brother, Charles, and a sister, Virginia. Her great grandmother was the well known Helen Van Dalson Barrett, whose father crossed the Delaware with George Washington. Helen was the last true Daughter of the American Revolution in the state of Michigan and her portrait is on display in Washington, District of Columbia.

After their marriage, Lieutenant and Mrs. Douglas Boudeman left for Fort Warren, Wyoming, where they remained for a short time until he was sent to Fort Benning. Later they returned to Wyoming and before long were sent to Camp Wolters, Texas, where they stayed for one year. Their next transfer was to



Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, where a daughter, Karen Lee, was born [REDACTED]. When she was six weeks old, the young father, at that time a Lieutenant with the 82nd Division, which had been changed to gliders, was sent to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While at Fort Bragg Lieutenant Boudeman was transferred to the Air Corps and sent to San Antonio, Texas, to the Aviation Cadet Center, known to airmen as SAACC. This transfer to the air service was the fulfillment of a desire he had long cherished. He took nine weeks of training at San Antonio, after which he was given leave and came to Kalamazoo, where his wife and child had been visiting. When he left Lieutenant Boudeman took with him his wife and child to Corsicana, Texas, where for nine weeks he took primary training. Later, he was sent for further training to Greenville, Texas. When he took his "check" ride, the officer who checked him, an unusually taciturn man, praised him highly, saying he had done "most excellent work."

It was here that on March 30, 1943, that death came as the result of a crash at Major's Field, in which his instructor, Lieutenant Fox, was seriously injured.

In personal appearance, Lieutenant Boudeman was of medium height and build, with blonde hair, blue



eyes and the bronzed skin of a man who lives out-of-doors.

Douglas Boudeman was prominent in the younger society group of Kalamazoo and Gull Lake, where he was known as a good mixer and an energetic worker. He had a keen mind, was well read and conversed easily on a wide variety of subjects. Though he greatly enjoyed a good debate, he was self-controlled. He was an unusually attractive personality and was liked by officers and men with whom he was associated.

Though cut off in his young manhood, while life gave promise of high achievement, Douglas Boudeman had the satisfaction of reaching the goal he had so much desired, namely, ability to fly.

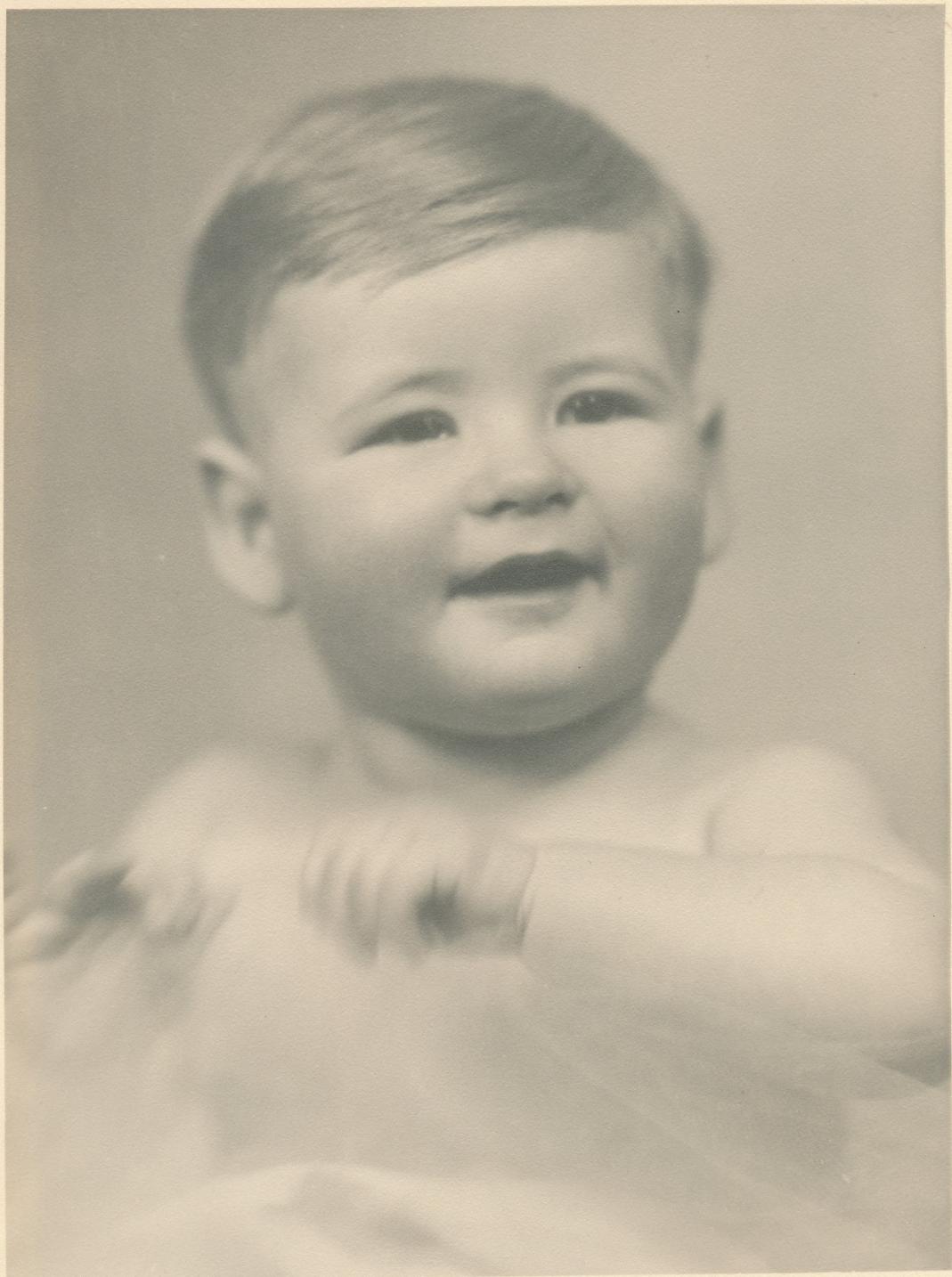
"The plane is down, the sun is in the west, but since the young airman longed for the beautiful adventure of flying among the clouds, we can but say he had not lived or died in vain."

Full military rites were conducted in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in charge of Chaplain William Powe of Fort Custer. A firing squad commanded by Lieutenant Harry Taylor, color bearers and buglers took part in the impressive rites in Riverside cemetery, where the burial took place.









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David Richard Bovlan

C L E O   M A R C Y   B O Y L A N

HER SON AND DAUGHTER

RICHARD DAVID AND DOROTHY YVONNE

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Cleo Viola Marcy, daughter of Laura Beulah Conklin and Earl Augustus Marcy, was born in Porter, Indiana, on April 10, 1910. She was of Scotch, Irish and French descent.

When Cleo was six months of age, the family moved to Kalamazoo, where later she attended the public school, and in 1926 she was graduated from Parson's Business College. She then worked in her father's office and later assisted her mother in the Marcy Barber and Beauty Shop.

On July 17, 1927, Cleo was united in marriage with Cecil Wendell Boylan, of Kalamazoo. The young couple first resided in Parchment and then at 824 Phillips street, Kalamazoo. When Mrs. Boylan became ill the family went to live with her parents. Two children were born to them: Dorothy Yvonne, October 29, 1929, residing with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Marcy of Kalamazoo; Richard David, April 21, 1933.

In January, 1937, that dread disease,



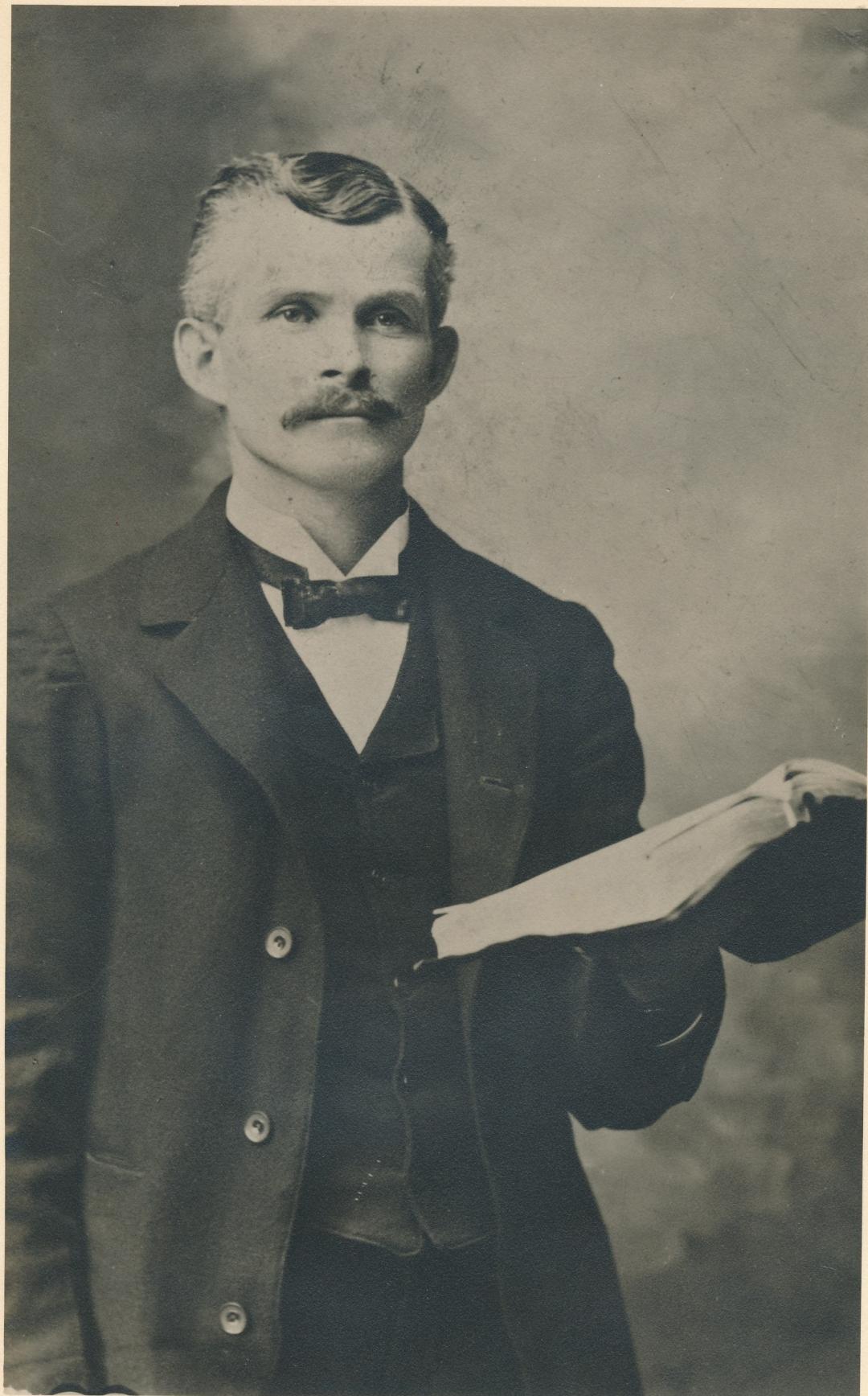
pneumonia, struck this little family. Mrs. Boylan passed away January 29 and little Richard February 9.

Mrs. Boylan was possessed of a rare personality of sweetness and charm. Her face was lighted with a smile that endeared her to her many friends. Her sunny nature warmed their hearts and they will always cherish the memory of her beautiful life. Cleo loved the out-of-doors, was fond of music, played the piano and had many cultural interests. Above all, she was a wonderful mother and a lovely home-maker. Her little boy, Richard, who passed away so soon after her death, gave promise of his mother's beauty and charm.

"I know not where His islands lift  
Their fronded palms in air;  
I only know I cannot drift  
Beyond His love and care."

Written May 1, 1937.





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Walter Elmer Boylston

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W A L T E R   E L M E R   B O Y L A N

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Walter Elmer Boylan was born near Allegan, Michigan, December 2, 1864, son of Rachel Adeline Van Doren and Joseph Boylan of English descent. He was a son of the soil in Michigan's fruit belt and attended the Allegan schools, also the school at Casco.

At the age of fifteen he moved with his parents to the then small town of South Haven and five years later his father took him back to the village of Allegan to assist in rebuilding the place after the disastrous fire of 1884. Together they laid the brick for twenty store buildings. This experience under the careful guidance of his father gave the young man the finest kind of training as a brick layer. He worked with his father for five years, or until the spring of 1889, when he came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he remained the rest of his life. Among the buildings constructed by Mr. Boylan and his father in Allegan are the Sherman Hotel and the Sherwood and Griswold



block. Mr. Walter Boylan constructed school houses in Hammond, Indiana, Plainwell, Otsego, Galesburg, Oakwood, Yorkville, the old Lincoln school building in Kalamazoo, the Vine Street Grammar school and the Parchment school buildings. He also built the Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo and the Lane Boulevard Evangelical Church, the Zion Lutheran Church, the North Presbyterian Church, the Church of God, the Protesting Christian Reformed and the North Park Reformed churches. At Parchment his work includes: Mr. Jacob Kindleberger's residence, the first five boilers in the New Mill of the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment company, the Filtering Plant and many others. He also had considerable to do with the construction of the Old Borgess Hospital. He also built the St. John Plow Works and the Fuller Washboard buildings.

About 1905, Mr. Boylan purchased a farm located west of Kalamazoo about four miles.

July 1, 1885, Mr. Walter Boylan married Henrietta Viola Overhiser, whose parents lived near the Methodist Episcopal Church in East Casco. They were the parents of:



Lisle R., born January 7, 1889, married Elizabeth A. Gibbs, resides at West Lake near Kalamazoo;

Walter Carol, born June 19, 1891, married Aileen Clark, resides in Kalamazoo, parents of - Wendell Eugene, born December 1, 1912, married Kathleen Tuckerman, resides in Battle Creek; Beverly Aileen, born July 28, 1914, married Dale Smith, resides in Kalamazoo; Carol Clark, born October 1, 1916, married Helen Link of Plymouth, Indiana, resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Jacqueline Jean, born August 13, 1921, resides in Kalamazoo;

Perciville Leroy, born April 16, 1893, died April 14, 1919;

Herena, born May 17, 1897, died at birth;

E. Leo, born December 11, 1899, married Henrietta Buurma, resides in Parchment;

Austin Gaylord, born November 8, 1903, died December 29, 1923;

Cecil Wendell, born Jan. 18, 1906, married Cleo Marcy, who is deceased - he resides in Kalamazoo and is the father of Dorothy Yvonne, born October 29, 1929 and Richard David, born April 21, 1934, died February 9, 1938;

Elizabeth Aileen, born June 6, 1910, married Bruce Kitchen and is the mother of Rosalie Diane, born [redacted], Bruce Garrison, born December 10, 1929, Gaylord Walter, born [redacted], resides at Parchment.

Mr. and Mrs. Boylan celebrated their golden wedding anniversary July 1, 1935.

Mr. Walter Boylan was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and a Republican who was at one time a Prohibitionist and always opposed to the



liquor traffic.

He was an outstanding churchman. His father was a deacon in the Baptist church at Allegan and his mother was a devout member of that church. When he came to Kalamazoo he and his family attended and were members of the Bethel Baptist Church. About 1905 the family joined the Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church and soon after he was made an official of that church. When in Casco he taught a young men's class in the Sunday school and became a charter member when the Parchment Union Methodist Episcopal Church was organized. In all the churches to which he belonged he sang tenor in the choirs. For five years he was superintendent of the Parchment Sunday school.

In 1920, he decided Parchment was a good place to live and selected his place of residence for the remainder of his life in Glenwood plat in the northwest corner of Riverview drive and Townline road.

Mr. Boylan used to say, "I'm not much on hobbies, but I do like a good base ball game."

Death came to Mr. Boylan Friday afternoon, January 20, 1939. Funeral services were conducted in the Parchment Church by his pastor, Reverend



Victor W. Thrall assisted by Mr. Boylan's close friend, Jacob Kindleberger. Burial was in Grand Prairie cemetery.

Mr. Kindleberger said of Mr. Boylan:

"He was an answer to prayer. I felt the need of a great, strong Christian man to help us in starting a church. I often prayed that such a man would be sent to us. He came and I always thought of him as an answer to prayer. He had a radiant spirit. It never left him. A number of times when I called to see him, when he was suffering as he did for months, I felt the glow of his rich Christian life. I had gone to minister, but went away feeling that I had been ministered unto by him. All who came into fellowship with him felt that his years of Christian living spoke in terms they could not fail to understand."

Written in 1939





Charles E. Boys

*H.E. Robinson*

C. H. E. Boys

## C H A R L E S   E D W A R D S   B O Y S

Charles Edwards Boys was born at Grenola, Kansas, April 18, 1875 the son of Leonard and Anna Montgomery Boys. He received his early education in the public schools of Grenola then came to Albion, Michigan, where he spent two years in the Preparatory School and four years in Albion College from which he received his B. S. degree in 1899. He then attended the Medical School at Northwestern University where he received his M. D. in 1903 and was licensed to practice in Illinois.

Dr. Boys served 15 months internship in Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. Completing his internship on July 31, 1904, he was licensed to practice in Michigan and came to Kalamazoo in August, 1904, where he did general practice for the next ten years, majoring in surgery and obstetrics.

In the summer of 1914 he made a pre-arranged surgical tour in Europe, including Paris, Berne, Zurich, Munich, Vienna, Berlin, Jena, Heidelberg, Freiburg, Brussels, Amsterdam and London. Since his return from this tour and study late in 1914 he has limited his practice to Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics. Since 1910 to date Dr. Boys has been



Lecturer on Obstetrics and Gynecology at Bronson Methodist Hospital Training School for Nurses. During the World War Dr. Boys served as Chairman of the local Medical Advisory Board. He is a member of the Medical Staff of both the Bronson Methodist and Borgess Hospitals and Surgeon to Pinecrest Sanitarium for Tuberculosis.

Dr. Boys is a past president and secretary of the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine and has been an active member for many years. Other Medical organizations where he holds membership are: Kalamazoo Medical Journal Club; Michigan State Medical Society, (now Councillor and member of the Executive Committee of the Council. Former chairman section of Obstetrics and Gynecology); Non-resident Fellow Detroit Academy of Surgery; Non-resident member of Detroit Obstetrical and Gynecological Society; Fellow American Medical Association; Fellow American College of Surgeons, and for several years member of Michigan Credentials Committee for same. On April 24, 1935 he received an "Award of Merit" from Northwestern University Alumni Association "In recognition of worthy achievement which has reflected credit upon Northwestern University and each of her alumni."

Dr. Boys has taken a keen interest in music and musical organizations. He played first clarinet in the Albion College Band and later, 1896-1899 was the



director of this band. He also played first clarinet in the Albion College Orchestra under Dr. Scheffler. In 1898, from May till October he played clarinet in the 31st Michigan Volunteer Infantry Band during the Spanish American War. Since 1929 he has played the bassoon in the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Orchestra.

He is a member of Sigma Nu, Literary Fraternity, Albion College, Senior Honorary Fraternity, Alpha Omega Alpha, (1903) of Northwestern University Medical School; Member of all Masonic bodies up to and including 32nd Scottish Rites; Member of Saladin Temple Shrine. Since 1932 Dr. Boys has served as Chairman of Board of Directors of Kalamazoo Museum and Art Institute, to date and in 1934-1935 was President of the Kalamazoo Torch Club. In 1935 he was appointed a Director of the American National Bank of Kalamazoo.

On August 3, 1904 Dr. Charles E. Boys was united in marriage to Myrtle H. Ford, the daughter of Charles Albert Ford and Elizabeth M. Floyd Ford. Mrs. Boys is a graduate of Albion College and was a teacher. To them were born three sons, Floyd E., Lawrence E. and Richard G. Boys. Lawrence passed away-age 16-April sixth, 1923.

In the fall of 1929 Dr. Boys, accompanied by



Howard J. Cooper made an extensive hunting trip in the wilds of Alaska in search of specimens for the Kalamazoo museum. As the result of the expedition the museum will have rare specimens of the Alaskan white sheep, a caribou, the black bear, and the giant moose family of that country. After big game hunting in the Canadian Northwest and the United States and Alaska, in the fall of 1934 Dr. Boys accompanied by Dr. Harlan S. MacMullen, Manistee, and O. N. Burgess, of Anna, Illinois, went to Mexico hunting antelope and wild turkeys and brought back an antelope for the museum. In the Spring of 1935, he made his third trip to Alaska and obtained a good specimen of Kodiak bear; also a collection of Alaskan birds for the Museum of the University of Michigan. Dr. Boys is a popular speaker in Kalamazoo and neighboring cities showing motion pictures he has taken on his many trips.

He is a Member of the Board of Trustees of the First Methodist Episcopal Church. This was written in 1935.



## F L O Y D   B O Y S

Floyd, son of Dr. Charles E., and Myrtle Ford Boys, was born August 30, 1905, at Kalamazoo, Michigan. He attended the Public Schools of this city, and was graduated from Central High School in 1923.

Floyd received his B. S. degree from Harvard University in June 1928. His next step was in direct preparation for his life work in surgery. He entered Northwestern University Medical School, receiving his degree in June, 1932. This was followed by an Internship at Passavant Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. He was for one year Assistant Pathologist at Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois, and is now, in 1936, on his second year in the University Hospital at Ann Arbor, Michigan, in the Department of Surgery under Dr. Coller.

Dr. Floyd Boys was united in marriage to Miss Juanita Matlock, on August 4, 1933. Miss Matlock, a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Neal Matlock, was a teacher of Spanish at Western State Teachers College. To Dr. and Mrs. Boys was born a daughter, Rachel, on May 29, 1935. This was written in 1935.



## R I C H A R D   B O Y S.

Richard, third son of Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Boys, was born November 13, 1912, at Kalamazoo, Michigan. He had his early schooling in the Training School of Western State Teachers College, graduating from that High School in 1930.

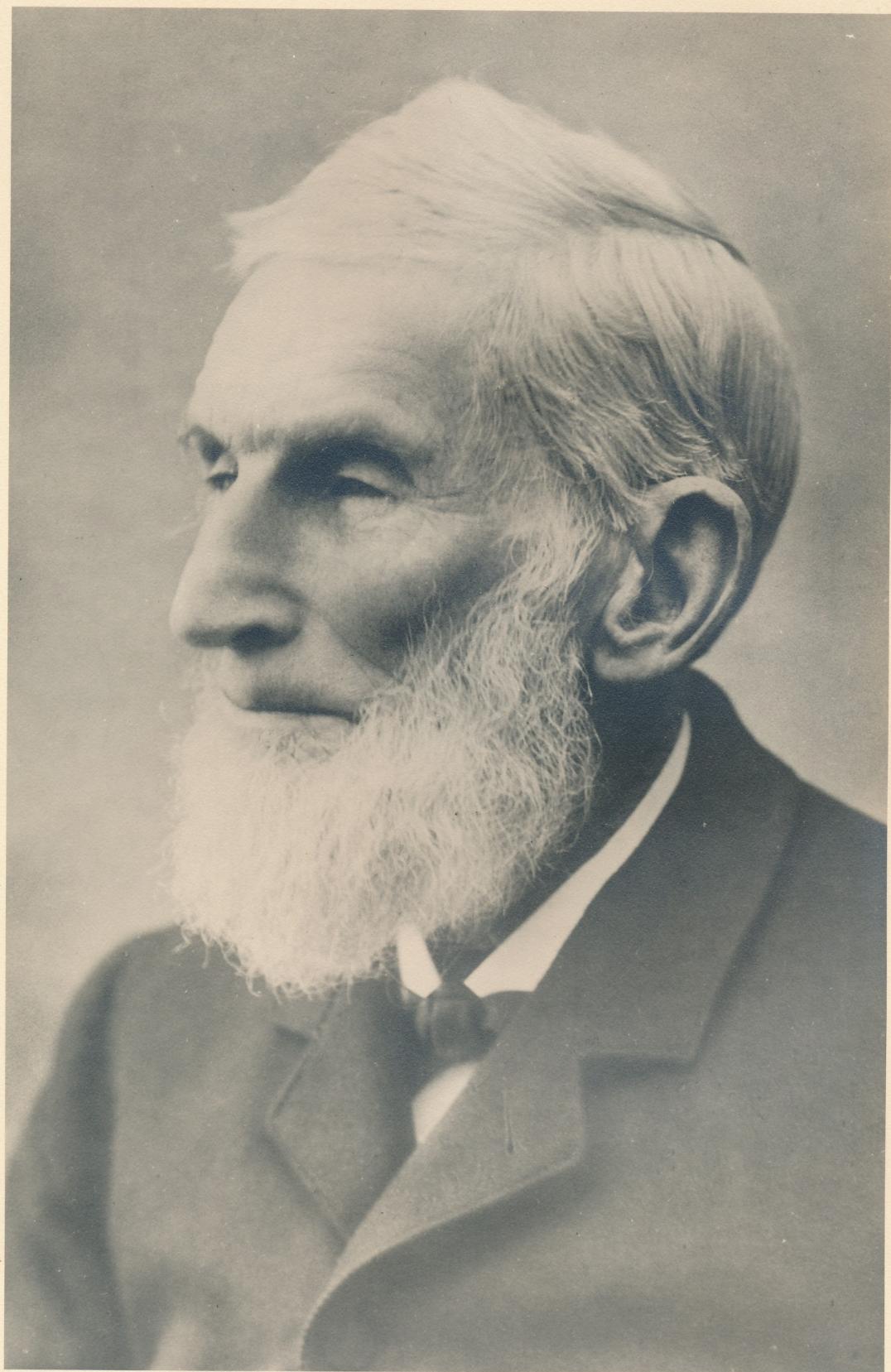
Following graduation, Richard went abroad, and attended Exeter College, at Exeter, Southwestern England, in 1930-31.

He entered Harvard College in 1931 and received his A. B. degree from there in 1935. While there he played on the Varsity Basket Ball Team and was elected Captain of the Team for 1934-35.

Mr. Boys was married on June 22, 1935, to Miss Elizabeth Eaton, a teacher, a graduate of Radcliffe College. Mrs. Boys is the daughter of Dr. Horace, and Mrs. Eaton of Syracuse, New York. At the present time, (1936), Mr. Boys is working toward his Ph. D. Degree in English, at John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. This was written in 1935.







R E V . M I L T O N B R A D L E Y

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Milton Bradley was born in Stockholm, Lawrence county, New York, March 13, 1812, son of Truman and Sarah Bradley. The country was new. Their log house was on the banks of the St. Regis River. The Indians trapped and hunted near them, and were often in their house. The family came from Vermont in 1810. They were originally from Connecticut.

He was educated in the district school, attending three months in the year. At the age of seventeen he was sent to St. Lawrence Academy, in Potsdam, New York, then under the care of Reverend Asa Brainerd. In 1829 he united with the Presbyterian Church in Potsdam, of which the Reverend O. P. Hoyt was pastor. He remained there two years, and in 1831 entered Middlebury College, and was graduated in 1835. Dr. H. D. Kitchel, later of Detroit, and Hon. N. A. Balch were members of that class.

From 1835 to 1837, Mr. Bradley had charge of Fort Covington Academy, New York, going from there to Auburn Theological Seminary. In May, 1838, he



was licensed to preach the gospel by the St. Lawrence Congregational Consociation, and in September, 1838, took charge of the Congregational Church in Parishville, New York.

He was married September 5, 1838, to Miss Sarah Jones by Rev. Aaron Foster. In 1839, he was dismissed from the Consociation and united with the Presbytery of St. Lawrence, and was ordained by that body, and by a council installed as pastor of the church in Parishville, where he remained five years, prospered and sustained by a united people.

The health of Mrs. Bradley required a change. By the advice of Rev. O. P. Hoyt, he came to Richland, Michigan, in October, 1843. Reverend Calvin Clark had left the Prsbyterian Church in Richland in the preceding July. After preaching in Richland for three months, he was called to settle as pastor on a salary of four hundred dollars per year. This call was not immediately answered, and the winter of 1843-1844 was spent in Illinois. In May, 1844, the call was accepted, and he was installed pastor of the Presbyterian Church on the 10th of July, 1844, by the Presbytery of Kalamazoo. Rev. O. P. Hoyt preached the sermon, Rev. Calvin Clark gave the charge to the people, and Rev. James Laurin



to the pastor. His time and strength were given to his people, and they were united and strengthened as a Christian congregation. The salary was gradually increased, and for several years it was one thousand dollars per year.

Mrs. Bradley, who had long been an invalid, was called home September 11, 1871. She was worthy of the place which she held, and her memory was cherished by those who knew her best.

On the 22nd of December, 1877, Mr. Bradley was suddenly laid aside from his work and absolute rest was enjoined. The people kindly gave him a vacation of six months, continuing his salary. At the end of this time he was not able to continue his work, and resigned. His resignation was accepted, and by the concurrent action of the congregation and the Presbytery of Kalamazoo he was made pastor emeritus. He remained for some time in his home and regained something of his former strength and vigor.

For more than a third of a century he ministered to the people of Richland - the longest of any pastorate in the State up to that time. He officiated at three hundred weddings and attended more than five hundred funerals, frequently going into the



surrounding country for these services. Through all those years he rejoiced with his people in their prosperity and sympathized with them in their sorrows. His preaching was thoroughly evangelistic, with no sensational methods of work or teaching. He especially endeavored to manifest everywhere a life of righteousness as an influence for Christianity.

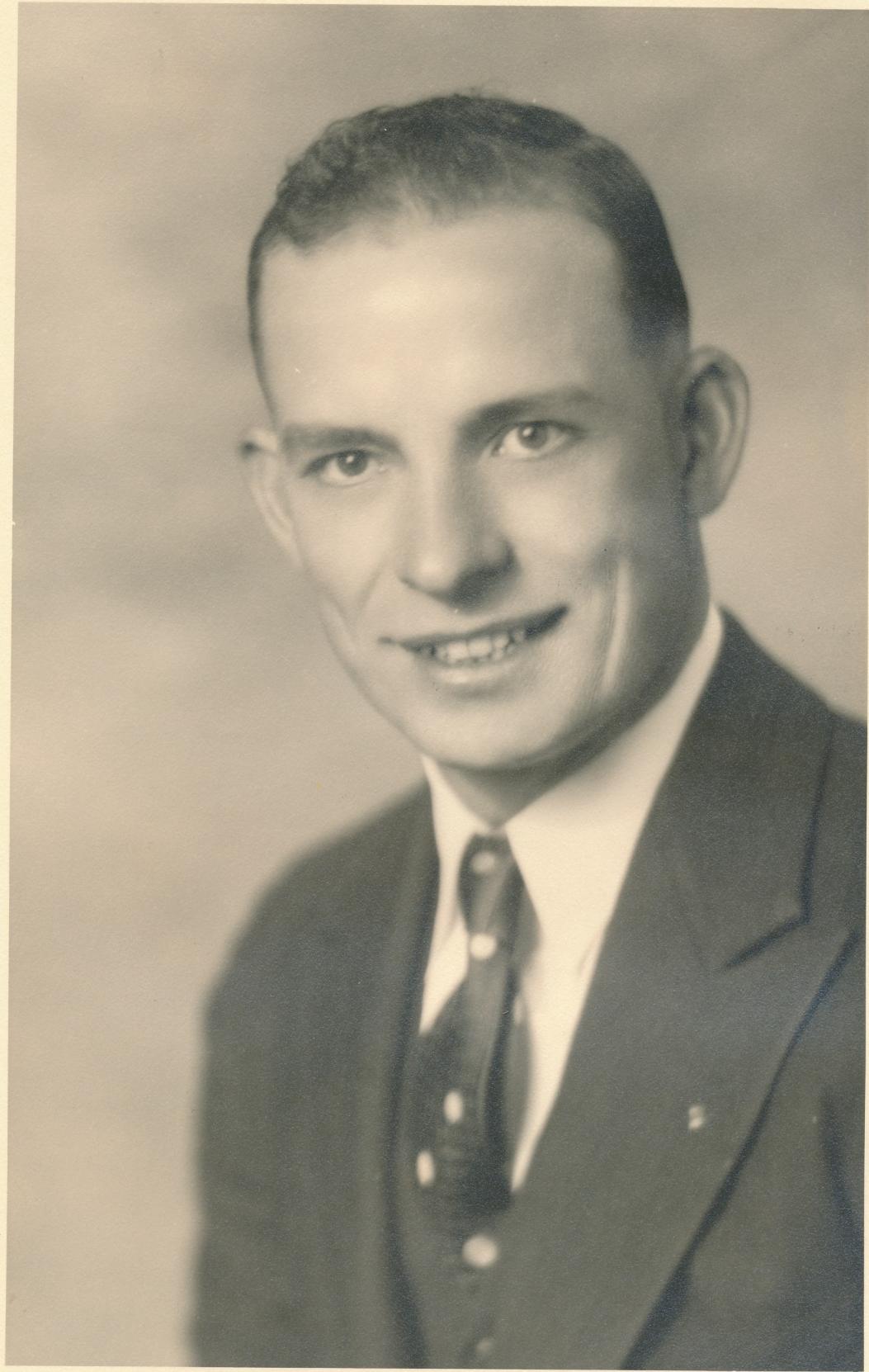
The Reverend Milton Bradley died February 3, 1896, and was buried in the Richland cemetery.



Roland A. Brainard

Roland A. Brainard

65



R O L A N D   A   B R A I N A R D

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Roland A. Brainard was born in Doster, Barry county, Michigan, on a farm, March 25, 1911, son of George and Anna Helena Vandenberg Brainard, the father of English and the mother of Holland descent.

Roland's brothers and sisters were: (1) Marian, who married Mark Shields, became the mother of Patsy and Margaret and resides in Comstock, Michigan; (2) Richard, deceased; (3) Esther, who married Raymond Feaser, became the mother of Carol Ann and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan; (4) George O., who resides in Hillsdale, Michigan. Roland's mother died when he was four years of age and his father passed away in 1941.

After attending school in Doster and Kalamazoo High School, Roland worked on a farm for William O'Brien. He then engaged in the trucking business and was later employed by Walter Rector in the farm implement business. The last five years of his life he was salesman and service man for Howard Hopkins.

June 19, 1937, he was married to Norine Elizabeth Klein of Mendon, Michigan, daughter of Mathias



and Mary Banner Klein of German descent. Her brothers and sisters are: (1) Veronica, who married Gayland Harrington of Battle Creek, Michigan; (2) Agnes, who married Anthony Kuntz, became the mother of Norbert and resides in St. Johns, Michigan; (3) Rose of Kalamazoo, Michigan; (4) Charles of Detroit, Michigan; (5) Theresa of Kalamazoo, Michigan; and (6) Louis of Mendon, Michigan.

Norine Elizabeth Klein went to school in Mendon and was graduated from the high school after which she attended Parsons Business College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She then found employment in the office of the Humphrey Company and later in the office of the Kalamazoo Wax Paper Company.

Roland A. Brainard was an active member of the St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church, had belonged to the Catholic Athletic Association and was a member of the Holy Name Society and the Knights of Columbus.

In personal appearance he was about five feet, ten inches tall, weighed about one hundred fifty pounds and had dark brown hair and eyes. He was fond of hunting and fishing.

He was genial, always happy, had a fine sense of humor and made many friends, to whom he was affectionately known as "Rolly." Death came to him September



21, 1942. The funeral was conducted by Monsignor John R. Hackett and burial was in Mt. Olivet cemetery. This was written in 1942.

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Frederick H. Britton

F R E D E R I C   H E R B E R T   B R I T T O N

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Frederic Herbert Britton was born August 5, 1862, and died September 21, 1935. He was born in Oshtemo, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, and died in his home, 703 Harvard Avenue, University City, Missouri.

When he passed away, his daughter, Mrs. Frederica B. Koykka, formerly engaged in newspaper work and widely recognized as exceptionally talented in that field, wrote as follows:

"Ten years ago when I took the twin vows of poverty and obedience and became a newspaper reporter, my father said jokingly that while he was sorry, he was not without hope that I would at least learn enough to write the family obituaries. Hitherto he always had to write them, and in them he suffered twice. Because I have just read the account he wrote of his own father's life, I feel that no matter how badly I do it, he would like for me to be the one to tell you something of his own.

"My father was born seventy-three years ago in a little white house in Oshtemo, the first son of George and Maria Fee Britton. His father's people had lived for several generations in Harval, England. From a certain hill top near their home they could see on clear days the spires and roofs of Oxford University. Before that the family lived on the Isle of Man.

Goldsmith A Visitor

"His mother's people were Irish. Just as you



have dropped into this house quite frequently in the past, Oliver Goldsmith used to stop at the home of his grandmother and grandfather in Longford county. To the family belonged the man in Longford who built such an enormous, gray stone house it is still called Fee's Folly, and of it too was Lady Harmon. They came to this country in about 1840.

"When father was still a very little boy, he was aware in a dim way that he was not like other children. He could never catch a ball that was thrown in his direction, for one thing. One day his teacher at school exclaimed in amazement: 'Why Freddie Britton, you see much better when you're in the front of the room.' 'Why of course,' the little boy replied wonderingly. Eyeglasses for children were unheard of in those days. They cost \$50 a pair and you bought them from a traveling eye doctor. Father had his first pair of spectacles when he was eleven, and learned, to his great astonishment, that trees have twigs and small branches. In spite of his affliction he was always two or three grades ahead of his years at school.

"After he had received his degree from Kalamazoo College in 1881, he wrote for awhile for the newspapers here, and a year or so later was called to one of the Detroit dailies - a big thrill for a young man in those days. Although he never asked for any of the positions he held, he was reporter, city editor, managing editor, editor in chief, and editorial writer for one and then another newspaper. He lived in New York, Chicago, and Washington, and wrote for papers there, too.

#### Married In 1897

"He married Jessie Miller in 1897 and then carefully preserved the dress suit he wore on that occasion to bring out six years ago to wear at my wedding. Perhaps he wanted to augur that my married life would be as happy as his own.

"He was always very proud of the fact that no matter what sort of professional service



he needed, he never had to go outside of his own kinship to have it done well. It would please him to know that his sister Leoti is to sing for him today (Wednesday).

"He always advocated that a man's first duty was to himself and his home, and his city. He was always tremendously interested in politics and viewed with great distress the present tendency toward a centralization of government at Washington. He liked to have things done near at home, he said, where the citizenry could watch them.

"His own day began after dinner in the evening when the routines of the day were over, and he'd read or write and study until two or three o'clock in the morning. I remember more than once when I was in college and having trouble with my Latin translations, he would take the book away from me and hand it back with the passage put not only into good English but into verse. For years he spent each Sunday morning at the art museum and he traveled all over this country and part of Europe, believing, of course, as he would, in seeing America first.

#### His First Book

"In 1910 he presented mother and me with copies of his first published book, 'Teddie,' the charming story of a child who went alone and unarmed through sixty miles of your Michigan forest when the country was new. Several years ago a club to which mother belongs made a ceremony of presenting the book to the St. Louis library.

"Just after he finished 'Teddie,' he came to St. Louis as editorial writer on the old St. Louis Republic. For ten years he wrote editorials for the Post-Dispatch, and since 1921 he has been with the Globe-Democrat.

"A great many of you wondered why, after he drove a certain old car for many years, he went down to the second hand car dealers and bought it back again, quartered it at considerable expense in one of the best garages



in the neighborhood, and finally brought it home a few months ago to the new garage in our back yard.

"I found this sketch about that car Sunday when I was going through his papers. He was a very prolific writer. You can scarcely open a drawer in our house without coming on something.

#### Why He Saved The Car

\*This is what he wrote:

'If parts of family gear - the old armchair for instance, in which somebody used to sit, or the old desk over which a dear head is clearly pictured as it used to bend, are cherished for what they once were, is a faithful old flivver to be condemned to ignominy after the part it has played for years in the family life?

'For a very few eyes on this ancient car, other marks persist beyond the reach of hose and chamois. There on the rear door is the dent made while trying to load in Auntie Florence's trunk when she came for that joyous visit long ago, but ever remembered. On this front door rested the hands from whom once upon a time we found it hard to drive away, though not knowing then it was the end of all partings. On the upholstering of this cushion during a sunny afternoon my brother Tom sat for the first seventy miles of the long journey, making his return on the evening train. He was gone on a longer journey the next time we came to his home.

#### Only An Heirloom Now

'Elizabeth Paige is only an heirloom now, the proud, monstrously fine car of her time. When she figures in my dreams, as it might be expected she would, now and then, it is always as she and other things used to be back in the days when we first had her. With slow progress we are toiling again over the unimproved, unmarked dirt roads, but there is much pleasantness



and close contact with the countryside people.

'Farmers, not yet disillusioned with the number and selfishness of tourists, come again to the fences to talk when we stop under the shade to rest. When two cars of the same make meet there are great honkings, even cheers.'

'Very often before waking I am again walking down the side of a country road while the sun slants low. Looking back I see a bright car, now so faded, - a small fire already kindled, - preparations for a picnic before driving on to the next country town.'

'For the water from the well that will be supplied so cheerfully, I am going to yonder farm house up the slope. It is always so pleasant as the dusk deepens. Helping to carry the pail a tiny girl who is not with us any more dances by my side.'"

Funeral services for Mr. Britton were conducted at the residence in University City Monday at 10:30 A. M., with the Reverend Ivan Lee Holt, D. D., officiating. The family then came to Kalamazoo and services were held at the home of Mr. Britton's sister, Mrs. O. C. Howson, conducted by Reverend D. Stanley Coors, assisted by the Reverend William C. Perdew and burial was in the family lot in Mountain Home cemetery.





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Dr. George Thomas Britton

G E O R G E   T H O M A S   B R I T T O N

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Perhaps no other resident had a larger acquaintance in this community than Dr. Britton. Son of George and Maria Fee Britton, he was a native of Kalamazoo, a product of its public schools, known to almost all those who began life here thirty to forty-five years ago, and a professional work of unusual extent had brought him in contact with great numbers coming here during the period of the city's more rapid growth.

He was named for his father, a pioneer in this section, and for a relative, Captain Thomas Britton of the Sixth Infantry of the regular army, whom he closely resembled in appearance. Born June 5, 1877, at 220 West Vine street, Kalamazoo, he was graduated from the high school in 1896 and prepared for commercial life in a local business college. He was active in athletics and one of the adventures of his youth was to "beat his way" in company with one who is now a well known professional man of Kalamazoo to the Pacific coast and back over the Northern rail lines.



An Advertising Office

He performed secretarial duties for insurance and other establishments in Kalamazoo and for some time was connected with an advertising agency at Grand Rapids. His decision to adopt a medical career was taken very carefully after several years of consideration. His preliminary medical studies were at the old Grand Rapids Medical College, a small school, but in which he had the example and inspiration of two or three instructors of real eminence. He was a self-maintained student and during several periods of some months each he mastered pharmacy as a drug store clerk.

He completed his course at the Detroit Medical College, where he was a Nu Sigma Nu man, winning his degree in 1906, and in a class of eighty-two, many of whom have since had unusual and even brilliant success in both medicine and surgery, he stood first among four on whom class honors were bestowed, with appointment as interne at Harper Hospital. After a few months' service in this capacity, he was made senior house physician at this famous institution.

Back To Home Town

His attachment for his native community, its ways and its people was always most marked and



and despite advantageous opportunities opened to him then and later in other fields, particularly in Detroit, he entered practice in Kalamazoo in 1908. He had the best two medical schools could offer in theory and principle, experience of nearly two years in the latest and most authentic hospital technique and a valuable command of the pharmacopea, and in association with the late Dr. John Fletcher, one of the most practical of mentors, obtained his unusual equipment for meeting the actual problems of the professional life in populous centers. In a number of instances he had gratifying triumphs over the very plague of pneumonia that caused his own death in the Christmas season after less than five days' illness. Just prior to his own last illness he had been battling successfully in behalf of several of his patients against this swift scourge.

He was married September 22, 1909, to Miss Margaret Monroe of Flint, who died June 16, 1918. On August 30, 1924, he was married to Miss Leoti Combs of Kalamazoo, who survives him. He is also survived by his son George Thomas and a daughter Jane, and one sister, Florence B., wife of Dr. O. C. Howson of 929 Walwood Place, Kalamazoo; his mother, Maria Britton, in her 87th year; and two brothers,



William L. Britton of 916 Oak street, Kalamazoo, and Frederic H. Britton, one of the Globe-Democrat editors in St. Louis.

Measured Six Feet, Three

He had a prepossessing, winning presence, measured six feet, three inches, was a square man as well as big man with a face that as a young medical student and early practitioner, in the first fervor and glow of a newly-undertaken service to humanity, was the face of young saints in old pictures. The floors of local ball rooms during many years had no more striking figure, no more graceful dancer.

To one of the noblest professions he brought its noblest qualification, character. The code of medical ethics was a vitalized code in his work. Gently whimsical and humorous, tender and true, he won a circle whose numbers - many among the lowly - unsuspected until his death. At an early date he began the custom of reserving for benevolences all professional fees earned on Sunday. These he deposited in a special fund known only to his bankers, to be drawn on for the encouragement and relief of the needy and distressed and heavy-laden - often to be overdrawn. This would not equal one-seventh of his total earnings, yet, though for many years he



carried with fortitude burdens known only to a very few, it would amount to quite one-tenth, often to somewhat more, of a net income none too great.

Trustee Of Church

Of high attainments in the branches of science that have to do with healing and a humble student of other branches, he could see no conflict between scientific truth and spiritual truth - was a modernist on the eleventh commandment, a fundamentalist on the Golden Rule. At the time of his death he was a trustee of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo, in which he was brought up and whose faith he early professed. His was one of those records of the medical life - there are many such unselfish, unafraid, unaffected records - that impeach the cynicism of "Arrowsmith."

The foregoing, with a few minor changes, was written by the brother Frederic H. Britton.

Possibly nothing reveals more the kind of man Dr. Britton was than what he did just prior and leading up to his death. Dr. D. Stanley Coors, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, was dangerously ill with a malignant type of pneumonia. Dr. Britton gave him almost constant attention, until a doctor friend warned Dr. Britton that he was look-



ing ill and must get more fresh air and rest. But it was too late. He was taken ill on Christmas eve. The deadly pneumonia made short work of this devoted physician and he passed on at eleven P. M., Tuesday, December 29, 1925.

The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Martin Luther Fox, D. D., a former pastor and a close personal friend of Dr. Britton. Burial was in the family lot in Mountain Home cemetery. The funeral was Saturday, January 2, 1926, at 10:30 A. M. The pall bearers were Drs., A. W. Crane, C. B. Fulkerston, C. E. Boys, Sherman Gregg, Ward E. Collins, and E. D. Sage.

The following Sunday the bulletin of the First Methodist Episcopal Church contained the tribute below:

GEORGE THOMAS BRITTON, M. D.  
A Friend Of Man

The translation of our beloved Brother, Dr. George T. Britton, removed from our midst, one who was not only an eminent physician, but a true and faithful friend to hundreds of men, women and children. For 20 years this kindly man labored day and night for suffering humanity, giving of himself, like unto the "Great Physician", until his stalwart frame could no longer carry the load, and he has gone to hear the "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."



The following appeared in the Michigan Christian Advocate of October 30, 1941:

Tribute To A Physician

By D. Stanley Coors

I would like to pay grateful tribute to a physician, Dr. George Britton, concerning whom it can be said he gave his life to save mine. He represented the spirit of unselfish service that characterizes the members of the medical fraternity who minister to sick bodies in Bronson Hospital.

His anxiety over my critical condition moved him to a constancy in attendance upon me that jeopardized his own health. Other physicians called into consultation on my case warned him of the deadly bug that had me down. But he tested the oxygen apparatus, watched closely the trends in temperature, tried every possible method known to medical science that his patient might survive. He was the kind of a physician who believed that God was not to be left out of consideration in dealing with the human body, and the soul within it, the climactic achievement of the Divine creative act. It is reliably reported to me that night after night he knelt by his bed before retiring, in earnest petition that wisdom might be given all who were working on my case and that Divine power might supplement the best that human power could do.

Within three weeks he himself became a victim of the same dread disease and gave up his life in loyalty to the high calling of his profession as a Christian physician. It is just and fitting that I pay this brief tribute to his memory.





W. F. Robinson

James Britton

J A M E S   B R I T T O N

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James Britton, a charter member of the Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church, Kalamazoo, was born in Berkshire, Harwell, England, November 15, 1844 and came to U. S. A. with his parents in 1848 when it required five weeks to made the voyage. His parents settled in Brockport, New York. In 1856, the family moved to Michigan and settled near Diamondale, Michigan, and later moved near Oshtemo. In 1861, Mr. James Britton moved to Kalamazoo. He learned the painters trade and had painted the tall steeple of the old First Church of Kalamazoo. He was converted at the age of 17 and was a loyal and stalwart follower of the Master for seventy years. He was a member of The First Methodist Episcopal Church and in 1886 became a charter member of the Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church. He was married in 1869 to Charlotte Tuckey at Paw Paw. Three children were born to this union: Frank Britton and Mrs. Eugene Weed, of Kalamazoo, and Mrs. Louise Thacher of Grand Rapids. Mrs. Britton died in 1908 and Mr. Britton was married to Mrs. Lillie Hunter in 1911; she died in 1926. Mr. Britton was very active until a few



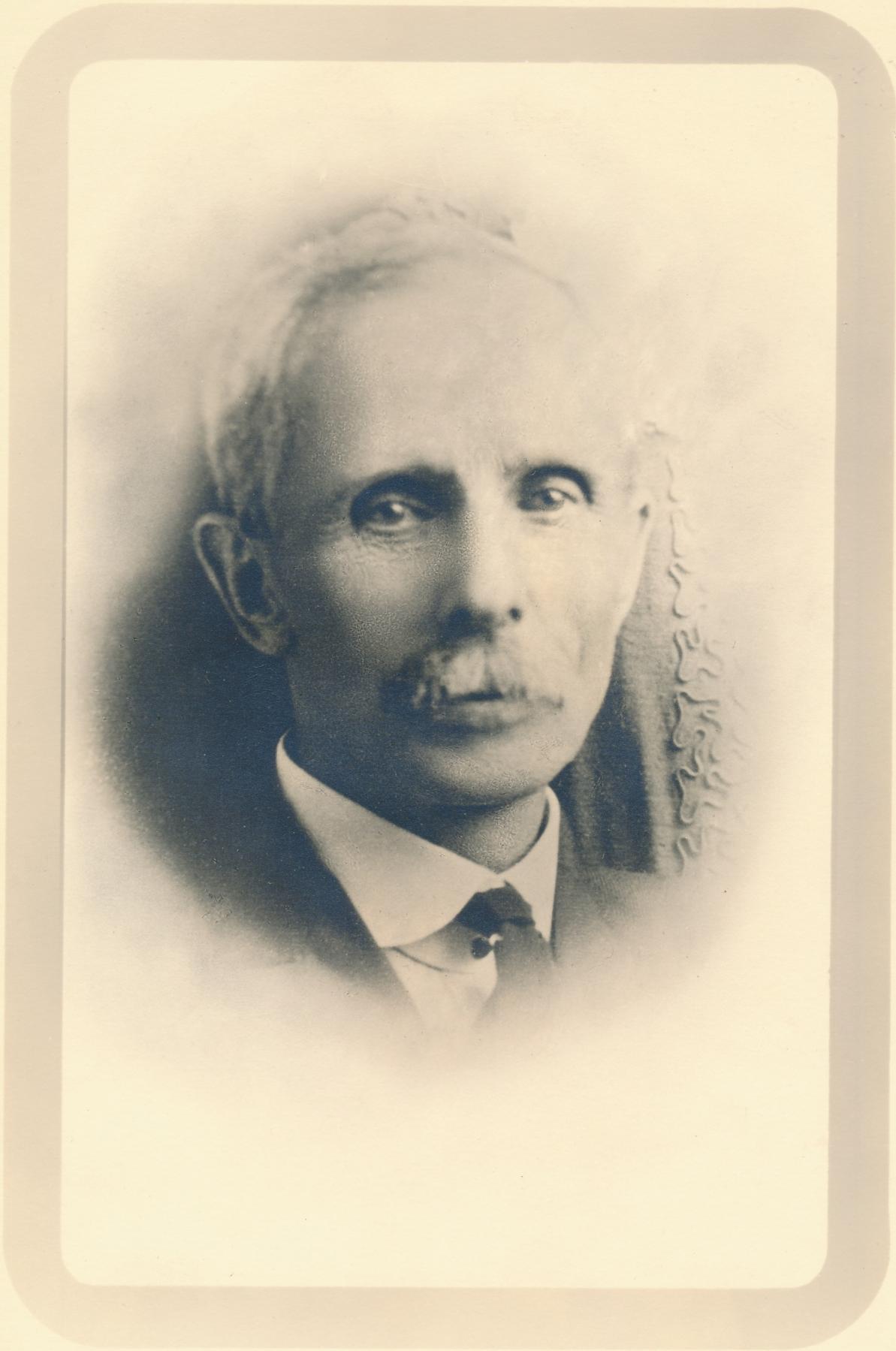
days before he was taken down with pneumonia. He died at Bronson Hospital, April 20, 1935, aged 90 years. His funeral services were held in the Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church that he helped to build and which he loved and served so faithfully many years. He was an ardent worker for temperance and did a great deal in helping to bring about prohibition and more than once his life was threatened by the enemies of temperance. Three months before the close of the Civil War he was drafted into the service and friends offered to pay for a substitute but he refused and was sent to Detroit where he was in training at the time the war came to a close. A good soldier of Jesus Christ has gone to his eternal reward.

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WILLIAM B BROCKIE

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William Brotherstone Brockie was born in Peterboro, Ontario, Canada, September 24, 1857, son of Jenet Brotherstone and Joseph Brockie of Scotch descent. His brothers and sisters were: Alexander Kyle, who married Elizabeth Baker and resides in Kalamazoo; Margaret Kyle; Joseph Lincoln, who married Mabel Pryor and resides in Kalamazoo; Isabelle Laidlaw of Kalamazoo; Anna Helen; Robert James, who married Clara Coburn; Jennie Brotherstone, who married James Clark Orr now deceased. Mrs. Orr resides in Kalamazoo.

When William Brockie was about four years of age the family came to Kalamazoo County and resided at first in Oshtemo township and later moved to the Long Lake farm in Pavilion township. William attended the rural schools and later engaged in farming until he was 33 years of age, when he was married. He and Mrs. Brockie then went to Kalamazoo and he was employed by the Globe Casket Company as a trimmer for about one year. Mr. Brockie then went with the A. L. Lakey Paint Company, where he mixed and ground paints and was also salesman and held the offices at different



times of secretary-treasurer, vice president, and, following the death of A. L. Lakey in 1916, Mr. Brockie was president until his death.

Mr. Brockie, at one time, belonged to the Macca-bees and was a Republican in politics. He was an active and loyal member of the Methodist Episcopal Church all his life. While living in Pavilion town-ship he superintended a Sunday School and when he came to Kalamazoo he placed his membership in the First Methodist Episcopal Church and for twenty-eight years was an official member of that Church. At one time he taught a class of boys in the Sunday School. His favorite sport was hunting and was very success-ful in his quest for game.

William B. Brockie married Jane Scott Walker February 26, 1890. She was the only daughter of Ellen and Alexander Walker.

Mr. and Mrs. Brockie were the parents of the following children: Helen, who died in infancy; Glen Walker, who married Pearl Swanger; and Marguerite, a teacher in Kalamazoo schools.

Death came to William B. Brockie at 302 West Walnut street, Kalamazoo, where he had resided since 1904, February 17, 1923. He had been ill for a long time, but was always cheerful. His funeral was conducted by Rev. M. L. Fox, D. D., and was buried in



Mountain Home cemetery.

Mr. Brockie was a saintly character and many came to him for advice and counsel and found him very helpful.

The following resolution was written by Ernest A. Balch and unanimously adopted by the Official Board of the First Methodist Episcopal Church:

"WHEREAS, after many months of suffering, release has come to our friend and brother, William B. Brockie, and his enfranchised spirit, we believe, now beholds his Savior face to face:-

WE, members of the Official Board of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Kalamazoo, wish to express our sympathy to Mrs. Brockie and her family in these days of their bereavement and loss. We commend them to our Divine Comforter, who alone can sustain them in such a time as this and who can make even such losses into a sacrament to draw us nearer to Him who has borne all our griefs and carried all our sorrows.

We wish to place on record our high esteem of Brother Brockie and our appreciation for the long years of service which he gave unstintedly to our church. He was always cheerful, hopeful, and patient with others who did not see things as he did. His was a splendid example of Christian charity. Those of us who served the church with him always found him faithful to her best interests, devoting himself in heartiest service to her cause. It was a pleasure to all of us when the church last autumn voted to continue him upon the board although it was known that he was upon his bed of mortal sickness.

We shall miss him from our meetings, as we have felt the need of his counsel during these last months. We shall endeavor to emulate his virtues and pledge anew our allegiance to the cause which he loved so much."

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The following tribute is copied from the Bulletin  
of the First Methodist Episcopal Church dated March  
18, 1923:

"Two men recently have passed out of First  
Church to unite with "the Church Triumphant",  
William B. Brockie and G. H. Gerow. Both  
were splendid men, respected and honored by  
all who knew them. Each professed to endure  
"as seeing the Invisible". They were men of  
faith and 'proved their faith by their works'.  
They loved the Church as Christ their 'elder  
brother' loves it. Both toiled in it and sac-  
rificed for it. The end of life's journey  
for both was stormy and rough, but even for  
them 'at evening time it was light'. They  
faced the great beyond and the intervening  
shadow with confidence and had assurance  
'to depart and be with Christ was far better'.  
They bore the Cross and now they wear the Crown.  
Thank God for the faith

'That does not murmur nor complain  
Beneath the chastening rod;  
But in the hour of joy or pain  
Will lean upon its God'''.

(The foregoing was written in 1936)







M A R T H A   B O R G I S   B R O N S O N

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Martha Moore was the descendant of illustrious forbears. She was the daughter of Andrew and Anna Kellogg Moore and was born in Bay City, Michigan, September 11, 1870. Anna Kellogg was the daughter of Hiram and Fanny Morton Kellogg. Hiram Kellogg passed away in Pittsfield, Lorraine county, Ohio. Fanny Morton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Morton, and her older brothers and sisters, Pascal, Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah and Mary, left Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, in May 1819 and with others from that and Chester county, Pennsylvania, arrived at a place now known as Friendsville, Ohio. The trip was made on horseback. Other members of the party were Dr. Richard Morton, John Morton and wife, Benjamin P. Morton and wife. Soon after the arrival of the party, Mrs. John J. Morton gave birth to a daughter whom she named Fanny. She was the first white child born in the new settlement.

Of the other children, little is known except the married names of the girls: Elizabeth became Mrs. Rouel; Jane became Mrs. Drake; Sarah became



(1) Mrs. Doan, (2) Mrs. Rouel; Mary became Mrs. Dodge. John J. Morton was a direct descendant of John Morton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Martha Moore had the following brother and sisters: Mary Arvilla, born June 23, 1868; James, born October 6, 1872; Gertrude, born July 31, 1875; Ambrosia, born September 25, 1877; Teresa, born November 24, 1879. The family was of French descent and the members thereof were communicants of St. James Roman Catholic Church in Bay City, Michigan, where all of the children were baptized by the Reverend Fathers Scuthers and Rafler, and where they attended St. James Parochial School.

The family moved to Benton Harbor, Michigan, and there met Frank Borgis, who was born in Berlin, Germany, November 10, 1862, and migrated to the United States in 1883, and became a citizen July 22, 1890. He was married to Martha Moore July 18, 1893, and they started housekeeping in Benton Harbor.

Mr. and Mrs. Borgis became the parents of:

Francis Worth, April 1, 1894, born in Benton Harbor, Michigan, married Ruth Sweringer and was killed in an automobile accident January 23, 1929;

Raymond Leo, born November 11, 1895, in Belvidere, Illinois, married Bernice



Shay and became the father of Raymond, Jr., Donald, Barbara, Mary who was killed by an automobile while riding her bicycle, Mildred, Margaret, Dorothy, Sally, a son who died in infancy, and Nancy - the family, at the time of this writing in 1943, residing in Detroit, Michigan;

Carl Edward, born in Benton Harbor, Michigan, November 29, 1897, married Dora Jones and became the father of William Dean and Juanita May, Dora Jone Borgis passing away in July, 1942;

Madelyn Beneita, born September 23, 1899, in Belvidere, Illinois, attended St. Augustine Parochial School in Kalamazoo, Michigan, also Central High School, went to Denver, Colorado, where she met J. Floyd Green, who was born in Wing, Illinois, August 8, 1897, attended school there and later engaged in experimental work in Denver, Colorado; they were married in Scott's Bluff, Nebraska, December 23, 1920, by the Reverend Father Timothy Maloney and became the parents of Floyd Jr., born , who after finishing high school worked for the Hammond Machinery Company until he entered the Coast Guard Service of the United States government; and Marian Madelyn, born , attended St. Augustine Parochial School and was graduated from Central High School and took a course in aesthetic dancing; J. Floyd Green's parents, Walter W., and Jane Tribley Green were of English stock; J. Floyd became superintendent at the Burroughs Manufacturing Company in Kalamazoo; though he was raised a Methodist, he became a member of the church to which his wife belonged, St. Augustine's Roman Catholic in Kalamazoo; they reside at 2003 Fairfield avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.



The first few years of their married life Mr. and Mrs. Borgis alternated between living in Benton Harbor, Michigan, and Belvidere, Illinois. In both of these places Mr. Borgis owned and operated a bakery. Later he sold the bake shop in Belvidere and secured employment with the Singer Sewing Machine Company and soon after met a tragic death by being caught in a machine, March 7, 1903.

November 19, 1904, Mrs. Borgis was married to Frank Bronson, a life long friend of the family, and they became the parents of Edward Samuel, born May 2, 1906, married Rose Rowe and became the father of Betty Arlene and Barbara E. Tragedy again came to the family when Edward Bronson was killed in an automobile accident November 11, 1929; his daughter Barbara was born the following February and shortly after his death Betty Arlene passed away in 1930. Barbara was raised by her grandparents until they too passed away. Frank Bronson died November 23, 1941. Funeral services were conducted by the Reverend Robert K. Giffen, assistant to Father Fowkes of St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church of Kalamazoo and burial was in Mount Ever Rest.

Mrs. Martha Bronson's death occurred June 26, 1942. The funeral service was conducted by the



Reverend Father A. G. Fowkes and burial was in Mount Ever Rest.

Mrs. Bronson was of medium height and had brown hair turning white and deep blue eyes. She was of a cheerful disposition, skilled in nursing, gardening and home-making. Her gentle heart yearned over the sick as she ministered to them. She was broad minded in her outlook upon life and lived at peace with her neighbors and friends. She never lost her interest and enjoyment in people. When tragedy came into her life, her loyal spirit never faltered and her loving cheerfulness did not fail. She bore whatever sorrows, troubles or deprivations came to her with Christian fortitude. Her warm, vibrant nature made her loved by children and young people. She became their confidante and her influence on their lives was great even when no word was spoken. They were impressed by the nobility of her life and the spirit of justice and mercy which she manifested.

The children and grandchildren of this devoted Christian mother have a rich inheritance in the memories of her fruitful life, the fragrance of which will be everlasting.





Ervin Davis Brooke



E R V I N   D A V I S   B R O O K S   M   D

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ERVIN DAVIS BROOKS, M. D., was born September 6, 1854, on a farm near Dundee, Monroe County, Michigan. No records were kept concerning his father's family and little is known except that they were English. His father, William James Brooks, was born in Canada West in 1814, and as an orphan boy he ran away to the United States and found work in the state of New York. He saved his money and in time married Roxana Howe Harris of Canandaigua, New York, descendant of early American Colonial ancestors.

An unfortunate business venture in which William James Brooks was tricked by a partner swept away his earnings and left him penniless. The young couple decided to try their fortunes in the new and growing West and so moved to Michigan. They settled upon 80 acres of rich farming land five miles from Dundee and in the course of time had it fully paid for. William Brooks was a very strong, athletic man and became a successful farmer; his wife was tall and industrious. They lived in a log cabin and there their four children were born: Jane Adelpha, Ervin Davis, William Henry and George Adelbert.



The children were brought up very strictly. They were taught to work and to mind without a second bidding. Discipline was based upon principles of right and wrong as taught in the Bible. There was family worship daily and grace was said before each meal. Each child learned to read the Bible and to pray. On Sundays the father lead the singing at the religious meetings at the school house, as he had a strong, sweet voice. Gradually he became a leader in his community and was always in demand where there were neighborhood gatherings.

The father, William James Brooks, also became director of the school district. Having been deprived of school advantages himself, he determined that his children should obtain the best education possible. He read much and helped his children all he could. Whenever the meaning of a word was in doubt, he would advise, "Consult Webster". This training gave all the children a keen appreciation of the English language.

Although stern, the father was kind and just, and he would have his joke. Ervin recalls one winter evening when the boys became too hilarious and were sent out-of-doors to work off their surplus energy. Ervin began to shuffle to keep warm, and his father offered him a penny if he could dance for



15 minutes. He started in bravely enough, but after five minutes the father relented and gave the boy the penny. Another time, Ervin earned a jack-knife by going without his suppers for 15 nights. He had previously lost so many knives that his father decided to stop his carelessness by making him earn the next knife he had, and that knife, earned by hunger, remained his treasure until he wore it out.

Life went on with its ups and downs until Ervin was eleven years old. Then one day, his father met a serious accident. He had been hunting deer and had climbed a tree to obtain a better view of his surroundings when the limb upon which he rested, broke, and he fell, piercing his lung upon a sharp up-turned branch. The wound healed slowly, and before he was fully well he took his turn caring for a sick neighbor dying with consumption. He contracted the disease and died before another year had elapsed. Ervin's mother, who nursed the father in their home, became a second victim and died two years later. Thus, when Ervin was 13 years old, the children were left orphans.

An aunt and uncle and their children moved to the farm and looked after the home for two years when the farm was rented and the children were separated. The sister taught district school and



the boys worked for their room and board on neighboring farms, attending country school during the winter terms. After three years of this life, Ervin attended High School at Monroe where he did chores for his keep at the home of Hon. Edwin Willits. This gentleman was later successively a Congressman and president of Michigan Agricultural College at Lansing. It was his influence which decided Ervin to enter that college in the spring of 1873.

To meet his expenses during the next four years, the young student earned part of the money by working on the college farm, three hours every afternoon and ten hours on Saturday, for which he received remuneration at the rate of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cents per hour. During the long winter vacations, he taught district school for three or four months and saved his money for college expenses instead of spending it for fun. The last year his sister loaned him \$150.00 which he later paid back.

Although during the college years Ervin had little time for fun or recreation, he did indulge his love for music. He played tuba in the college band, and he often sang at special gatherings. He formed lasting friendships with men with some of whom he still corresponds. For many years his classmates maintained a "Round Robin" of letters which ceased



only when ranks grew too thin and hands too shaky to continue the effort. He was graduated from Michigan Agricultural College in 1876 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. In 1926 seven of his class met at the College to celebrate their 50th anniversary of graduation.

After leaving college, he continued to teach school winters and do farm work summers. In 1878 he married Ella Dunlap, daughter of James Monroe and Mary Ann Dunlap. His wife's people were successful farmers and Free Methodists. Ella was a very attractive girl, 16 years old, very lovable and possessed a sweet singing voice. She was happy after her marriage because she could then wear ribbons and jewelry formerly forbidden by her strict parents. For a time the young couple lived in South Lyon and Ervin assisted his father-in-law with work on the farm, but he had little liking for farming as a profession. Through contact with uncles of his wife who were physicians, his interest was turned in that direction.

He decided to take up the study of medicine, and in 1882 entered the University of Michigan as a student in the Homeopathic School. He supported himself and family by doing nursing and janitor work during this period. He became House Surgeon in 1885,



and in that year received his degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Meanwhile he had become the father of two little boys, William Don, born February 3, 1879, and Arthur Ervin, born May 30, 1883. Mrs. Brooks contracted consumption from relatives and became so ill that it was decided that she and Dr. Brooks should go to a warmer climate for her health. Accordingly, they spent several months in Las Vegas, New Mexico, where her health improved. Doctor Brooks sustained the family budget by working in a railroad office during this time. Mrs. Brooks became homesick to see her children left in the care of her mother, and they returned to Michigan before she was fully well. She died just six weeks after they had moved to Flushing, Michigan, where Dr. Brooks began his professional practice.

The grandmother took the children back to the farm and Dr. Brooks continued to reside in Flushing where he practiced medicine for ten years. He did post-graduate work at the University of Michigan from time to time. While there he met a patient, Miss Gertrude Lawrence of Florence, Michigan, whom he continued to see professionally after her return to her home. They were married May 25, 1887. She was the daughter of Wolcott H. and Mary A. Lawrence, success-

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ful farmers of Florence. She had graduated from White Pigeon High School and had attended Ypsilanti State Normal School. She was a very quiet little lady, delicate, a student, and gifted with artistic ability. Her life had always been sheltered and carefree because hired help had released her from all but light home duties. It was therefore something of an undertaking which she assumed as wife and mother of two little boys. But she was plucky and her great love carried her through 38 years of married life. It was Doctor's task to make her well and strong. Their marriage was a happy one. The loyalty and support of Mrs. Brooks was a constant help to her husband. She became a worker in the Presbyterian church and Sunday School, and was deeply interested in the work of the W. C. T. U. and of the D. A. R. to both of which organizations she belonged.

Four children were born to this union. The first, Paul, died in infancy and was buried in Flushing. The second, Ervane Roxana, born September 3, 1892, at Flushing, later was married to James Thompson Hannold. George Lawrence, born August 16, 1897, at Ann Arbor, married <sup>Eugene</sup> Scofield of Leslie. Mary Elizabeth, born October 17, 1904, at Ann Arbor, was married to Merle M. Mosier.

After living ten years in Flushing, Dr. Brooks



moved with his family to Ann Arbor where he resided during the next twelve years. During this time he took up post-graduate work at the University where he became assistant to the chair of Ophthalmology and Otology during the year 1894-95. Meanwhile, his eldest son, William Don, was taking his medical course at the University. The latter, after receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine from the Homeopathic School, began his practice in Leslie, Michigan, where he married Miss Beulah DeLamater.

In 1898 Dr. Brooks took up his specialty, studying with the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat College of Chicago, and with the New York Ophthalmic College, from both of which institutions he received diplomas. To add to this training, he spent the summer of 1906 in Europe taking lectures in London and very intensive hospital work at the K. K. Krankenhouse, Vienna, Austria.

For many years Dr. Brooks attended yearly meetings of the Homeopathic Eye and Ear Association and contributed frequent papers for its programs. In 1911 he was vice-president of the Ophthalmological and Otological Society which held its annual meeting in New York City and at that time he gave a paper on "Further Uses of the X-ray Flash in Eye and Ear Diseases". Following this meeting he visited at West



Point and took trips across Rhode Island, Connecticut and historic spots around Boston. Dr. Brooks also attended regular meetings of the Michigan State Medical Association, and of the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine after moving to the latter city.

While living in Ann Arbor, Dr. Brooks took special pleasure in its musical advantages. He sang in the Choral Union as a first bass. He recalls with pleasure many noted singers who came to assist in the yearly spring festival. Among these were Madame Schumann-Heink, then in her prime; Campanari who sang the "Toreador" song; and David Bispham, famous baritone.

After the family moved to Kalamazoo in 1907, Dr. Brooks continued his interest in music by helping to form the Madrigal Society, a chorus of mixed voices. This was succeeded by the Choral Union then under the leadership of Professor Maybee of Western State Teachers College, and with which Dr. Brooks sang. At one time, in a local presentation of "Pinafore", he sang the part of Sir Joseph Porter, K. C. B. For a number of years he sang with the Masonic Minstrels whose fun he greatly enjoyed. All his children inherited his love of music which he encouraged by giving them both vocal and instrumental training.



Dr. Brooks made his contribution to civic life also in the realms of religion and politics. As a Presbyterian, he served as Elder, Deacon, Lay Preacher, Sunday School Superintendent, Bible Class teacher, and Christian Endeavor president. He sang in church choirs and led prayer meetings. He visited the poor and sick, often giving professional service without any financial remuneration. Under the direction of the Kalamazoo Presbytery, he filled vacant pulpits in the counties of Kalamazoo, Berrien and St. Joseph, where he was sent to arrange for new pastors or otherwise to give encouragement. He was an able speaker and always pleased with his vocal selections. For several years he was closely associated with the North Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo where he was a leader in church work. In the First Presbyterian Church he held many offices, and taught Bible classes for several years. He played a flute in the Sunday School Orchestra for 25 years, in recognition for which service the young people of the church gave him a gold-headed cane on Children's Day, 1935.

All through his life, Dr. Brooks has been a bitter enemy of liquor and tobacco, neither of which he has ever personally used. While living at Ann Arbor he worked with the Anti-Saloon League of which he was



the president in 1902. In 1902-03 he was president of the Detroit District Anti-Saloon League. After moving to Kalamazoo he worked with the Home Defenders Organization led by Rev. Leroy White, a retired Baptist minister. Rev. Leroy White and Dr. Brooks took turns editing a weekly paper presented as a part of the program of this organization.

Dr. Brooks took an active part in the three campaigns to make Kalamazoo county dry, and later to make the state and nation dry. Working with the Anti-Saloon League, he spoke for temperance in many of the cities and villages in the southern part of the state, singing his prohibition songs and collecting money with which to finance the fight against the saloon. He also worked with the W. C. T. U. of which Mrs. Brooks was an active member. They both sacrificed heavily to see Prohibition win. After repeal of the 18th Amendment, Dr. Brooks continued his affiliation with the Prohibition Party on which ticket he ran for Governor of Michigan in 1928, at which time the other political candidates were Messrs. Comstock, Green, Lockwood, Pointer and Welsh. The "Wets" won at the polls, but Dr. Brooks received an encouraging vote. He is convinced that the so-called failure of Prohibition was due to lack of enforcement and that a party must be elected to power



which is in sympathy with the movement. As an educational means to that end he is working with the new Commonwealth Party in Michigan.

To make himself better informed on questions of public and private policy, Dr. Brooks studied law for four years, completing a course with the American Correspondence School of Law, Chicago, from which institution he received a graduate diploma.

He favored public ownership of public utilities, and voted for municipal ownership of such utilities in Kalamazoo whenever the question came up for decision.

After a year of failing health, Mrs. Brooks died May 25, 1925, and was buried in Riverside Cemetery. A year later, June 2, 1926, Dr. Brooks married his neighbor, Marien Almeda Todd, daughter of James Alfred and Marien Smith Todd (both deceased).

Miss Todd had been graduated from Hillsdale College, had taught school, done secretarial work, and had served as private secretary to her uncle, Albert M. Todd. In 1929 she began to assist at the Kalamazoo Museum where she has since served. She is the writer of this article.

In 1926 Dr. and Mrs. Brooks joined the Kalamazoo Writers' Club, which they attended regularly for two or three years. Dr. Brooks contributed many poems



which received favorable comment from the club. The following, in blank verse, was one of the favorites:

#### SUNRISE

When rosy-fingered Dawn first drew aside  
 The veil which erstwhile had obscured the face  
 Of the great Lord of Day, the Lunar Orb,  
 Fair Mistress of the Night where darkness dwells,  
 Ashamed of the faint glow she shed, and which  
 She borrowed from the sun, then hid her face  
 And sank into the West. The lesser lights,  
 The stars, which shared with her the rule by  
 night,  
 Departed from the vision of the eye,  
 And left the sun to rule alone by day.

The following poem, also contributed, reflects the religious sentiment of Dr. Brooks:

#### THANKSGIVING HYMN

To Him who gives me all I have,  
 To Him who died my soul to save,  
 I'll raise my voice in hymns of praise  
 And love and serve Him all my days.

For this blest land of liberty,  
 For those who gave their lives for me,  
 For countless blessings day by day,  
 I'll raise my voice in cheerful lay.

For home and all its blessings dear,  
 Companionships and friendships near,  
 For loving wife and children, too,  
 I give all praise and honor due.

For healing power of Jesus' blood,  
 That saves from sin and makes us good,  
 For all these blessings freely given  
 I'll sing His praise in earth and heaven.



Late in life Dr. Brooks joined the Masonic Lodge No. 22, after having been associated with many of its members in previous years while singing with the Masonic Minstrels.

Now, April, 1936, after more than fifty years of medical practice, Dr. Brooks still maintains his office in the Hanselman Building where he goes almost daily. His home is at 710 South Park street.

and the small acts before we come up will be  
as in this case. But I have seen many cases where  
the wife's conduct which may involve her in  
dangerous circumstances  
may still not even notice, and, though, now  
she continues life alone, or passes from place to  
place, she may never give birth again, and all  
her efforts will be to get away from him.

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Marien Almeda Todd Brooks



M A R I E N   A L M E D A   T O D D   B R O O K S

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Marien Almeda Todd Brooks was born in Burr Oak, Michigan, May 16, 1880, the daughter of James A. and Marien Smith Todd. She attended the Burr Oak schools and was graduated from the Burr Oak High-school in 1898 and from Hillsdale College in 1902, with a life certificate to teach school.

Later she taught in the Quincy schools and afterward was principal of the Burr Oak High-school. She united with the Presbyterian Church of which her father was an elder. In 1909 she removed, with her parents and one brother, Raymond S. Todd, to Williston, North Dakota, where she united with the Congregational Church. She taught in the Williston schools until the illness of her mother caused her to resign.

Following her mother's death in January 1916, she returned, with her father and brother, to Kalamazoo, where for several years she was private secretary to her uncle, the Honorable A. M. Todd. During this time she was regaining her health which had broken down under the strain of nursing her



mother. Later she held positions with the Kalamazoo Stove Company and the Young Women's Christian Association.

She was married June 2, 1926, to Dr. Ervin D. Brooks of Kalamazoo. She was a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church and active in its work.

When the Institute of Arts was reorganized in 1924, Mrs. Brooks became an interested and enthusiastic protector of the struggling institution, saving it from dissolution. She acted as its secretary for several years, making a definite contribution in the records she left as a foundation for future development.

The Daughters of the American Revolution are grateful to her for the faithful work she did in compiling a file of Vital Statistics of Kalamazoo County. This file is deposited in the Kalamazoo Public Library.

Mrs. Brooks also made an historical file of Kalamazoo, organizing the material so that it is definitely useful for reference. This file will eventually become the basis for any historical societies which may be formed in the future.

Mrs. Brooks was a member of the staff of the Kalamazoo Museum and Institute of Arts. She was



highly proficient in writing the stories for the exhibits which were used in the schools in connection with teaching about countries and their products, and told in language which could be understood by the pupils of the grades in which the exhibits were shown. This was no light task, as can be seen, yet she accomplished it despite almost insurmountable obstacles.

Mrs. Brooks assisted in organizing the Kalamazoo Professional and Business Women's club and was its second president. She was an active member of the Kalamazoo Writers Club for several years, making many contributions thereto.

She lived a consistent, exemplary Christian life and was a devoted and loving wife and companion to her husband, who suffered an irretrievable loss in her death, which occurred January 10th, 1938.

Mrs. Brooks was greatly missed and deeply mourned by all who knew her, and especially by her husband, Dr. Ervin D. Brooks, and her brothers, Raymond S. Todd, Hubert G. Todd of New Orleans and Dwight I. Todd of Williston, North Dakota.

She is buried beside her husband in Riverside cemetery, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

"REST IN PEACE."

Compiled by Dr. Ervin Davis Brooks, February, 1938



